

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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STUDY OF ARMS
RACE PLANNED

GREENWICH, Conn. -- The Executive Council of the Episcopal Church has approved a resolution which will implement its June 1980 resolution on the arms race by setting into motion a process that will result in a study and action guide prior to the 1982 meeting of the General Convention in New Orleans.

The resolution calls on the Rt. Rev. John M. Allin, Presiding Bishop, to appoint a task force that will work with the Convention's Joint Commission on Peace and the independent Episcopal Urban Caucus to pursue the matter of "informing and involving the church in the issues surrounding the arms race. . . ."

The task force was directed to present a proposed plan, including funding, at the June 16-20 meeting of the Council.

Some members of Council wanted to delete the section calling for the appointment of the task force which would have left the report of the Standing Committee on Education for Mission and Ministry with only two resolutions, one of which commended material on the subject already prepared and a second one which pointed to the 1982 Convention session as a time for the approval of an arms race policy for the Church.

The Rev. Donald Hungerford, Odessa, Tex., who has replaced Bishop William Davidson as a representative of Province VII, moved the deletion of the resolution calling for a task force to study the issue and to report in June. A substitute amendment, offered by Mrs. Dixie Hutchinson of Dallas, called for the task force to work with the Peace Commission and the Caucus. That amended version was approved by a vote of 16-11.

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At its June meeting last year, the Council heard four members of the Episcopal Urban Caucus address the Council on its concerns and plans. The Council then approved a resolution which expressed concern over "the increasing dangers of nuclear war, the accelerating arms race and the neglect of human needs, especially in our cities."

Several members of the Council expressed the hope that duplication of effort in providing such a study guide can be avoided by having the Council's task force working closely with the Peace Commission and the Caucus.

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